AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

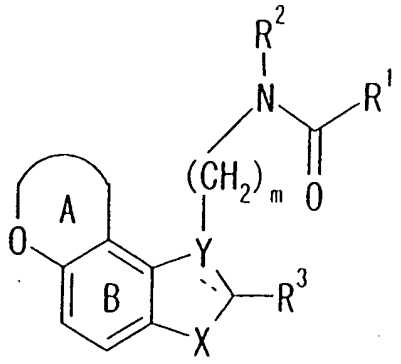
1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) A percutaneous absorption preparation comprising (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno [5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]acetamide, lauric diethanolamide, and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols.

8-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) A percutaneous absorption preparation comprising (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]acetamide, isopropyl myristate, polyethylene glycol and lauric diethanolamide.

21. (Currently amended) A percutaneous absorption preparation comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R^1 represents ~~an optionally substituted hydrocarbon~~ a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom ~~or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group~~;

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom~~, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon~~ or a C_{1-6} alkyl group ~~or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group~~;

X represents CHR^4, NR^4 or O in which R^4 represents a hydrogen atom ~~or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group~~;

Y represents C or CH;

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· · · · · · · represents a single bond or a double bond;

ring A represents ~~an optionally substituted,~~ a 5- membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

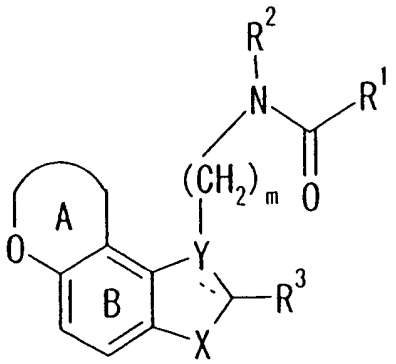
ring B represents ~~an optionally substituted~~ a benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof, wherein the percutaneous absorption preparation is a skin plaster or a skin patch which is applied and/or attached to the skin.

22-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently amended) A percutaneous absorption preparation comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R^1 represents ~~an optionally substituted hydrocarbon~~ a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom ~~or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group~~;

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom~~, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon~~ or a C_{1-6} alkyl group ~~or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group~~;

X represents CHR^4, NR^4 or O in which R^4 represents a hydrogen atom ~~or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group~~;

Y represents C or CH;

——
· · · · · · · represents a single bond or a double bond;

ring A represents ~~an optionally substituted,~~ a 5- membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

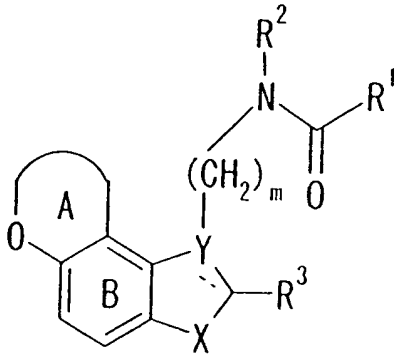
ring B represents ~~an optionally substituted~~ a benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof, wherein the percutaneous absorption preparation is contained in a skin contact member comprising silicon dioxide.

34-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently amended) A method of treating diseases related to melatonin, which comprises administering to a patient with a melatonin related disease a percutaneous absorption preparation comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R^1 represents ~~an optionally substituted hydrocarbon~~ a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom ~~or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group~~;

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom~~, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group~~ or a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

X represents CHR^4, NR^4 or O in which R^4 represents a hydrogen atom ~~or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group~~;

Y represents C or CH;

represents a single bond or a double bond;

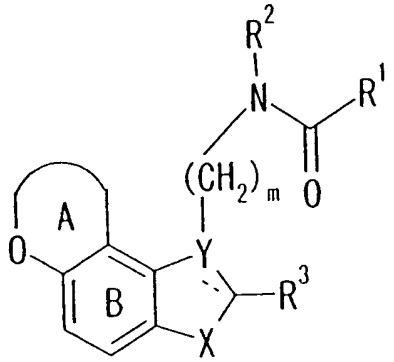
ring A represents ~~an optionally substituted,~~ a 5- membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

ring B represents ~~an optionally substituted~~ a benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof.

40. (Currently amended) A method for percutaneous absorption of a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, which comprises administering to a patient with a melatonin related disease a percutaneous absorption preparation comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R^1 represents ~~an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group~~ a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom ~~or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group~~;

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom~~, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group~~ or a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

X represents CHR^4, NR^4 or O in which R^4 represents a hydrogen atom ~~or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group~~;

Y represents C or CH;

⋯⋯ represents a single bond or a double bond;

ring A represents ~~an optionally substituted,~~ a 5- membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

ring B represents ~~an optionally substituted~~ a benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the percutaneous absorption preparation is affixed between about 6 hours before bedtime to just before bedtime.

43. (Currently amended) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 21, wherein X represents CHR^4 in which R^4 represents a hydrogen atom ~~or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group~~.

44-46. (Cancelled)

47. (New) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 33, wherein the compound is (S)-N-[2-(1, 6, 7, 8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno-[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]propionamide.

48. (New) The method of treating diseases related to melotonin according to claim 39, wherein the compound is (S)-N-[2-(1, 6, 7, 8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno-[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]propionamide.

49. (New) The method of percutaneous absorption of a compound according to claim 40, wherein the compound is (S)-N-[2-(1, 6, 7, 8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno-[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]propionamide.